

***Ephesians 5:16-33*** “16 *redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” This morning, we are going to look at two things that are a wonder to behold. First, we are going to look at marriages marred by “magical thinking.” Second, we are going to look at marriages mended by miraculous loving.*

#### **I. MARRIAGES MARRED BY MAGICAL THINKING**

**A. “Magical Thinking” #1: It is magical thinking to think that getting saved and filled with the Holy Spirit is no guarantee of having a lasting, successful marriage!** “16 *redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is*” We must use our minds, study God’s word and gain understanding of God’s will in regard to marriage! The days are evil and everything in this world is cursed by sin & rebellion – including marriage!

**B. “Magical Thinking” #2: It is magical thinking that any couple could ever get married and live happily ever after!** ***Genesis 3:16*** “*To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."* The true wonder of it all is that there are so few divorces! The phrase, “*your desire shall be for your husband, and he will rule over you*” is part of the curse that man’s willful rebellion brought upon all marriages. There is nothing cursed about the natural desire of a wife for her husband. The original Hebrew word that is translated as “desire” can refer to the desire of one animal to devour another! The root of the Hebrew word means, “to stretch out.” The curse stated here is that there would be a built-in conflict between the woman’s desires/intents/wants and what the husband wants. Her desire is to get her way over what her husband wants, but because the husband is stronger, he will use his brute force to rule over her! In contrast, the woman will use her cunning, nagging and often superior intellect to manipulate and scheme so that she can get her way! This is a curse, and Christian men and women only overcome it when they discover God’s will for their marriages and walk in the Holy Spirit.

**C. “Magical Thinking” #3: It is magical thinking that “being in love” keeps the marriage alive.** The feelings of love do not keep the marriage alive, it is the commitment of marriage in Christ Jesus that keeps love alive! Anyway, true love is action & behavior. The loving feelings are the caboose of love’s train – a train that can run just fine with or without the feelings. Ask any mother at 3 a.m. as she cares for her colicky child on the 7<sup>th</sup> sleepless night! True love is “agape” love, which gives selflessly. Husbands have to be taught “*to love their own wives as their own bodies,*” and wives have to be admonished to love their husbands. ***Titus 2:3a-4b*** “*The older women...admonish the young women to love their husbands.*”

**II. MARRIAGES MENDED BY MIRACULOUS LOVING** Look at **Ephesians 5:17b-33.**

**A. Marriages mended by walking in the Spirit**

**B. Marriages mended by** “*21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.*”

This phrase means that all that wives & husbands do for one another is in submission to and in worship of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

**C. Marriages mended by** “*understanding what the will of the Lord is.*” God clearly spelled out His will when He established the first marriage! *31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)* *32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”*

**D. Marriages mended by understanding 2 basic words: “leaving & cleaving;”** in other words, we are to understand the unity between a husband and wife! “*and the two shall become one flesh.*”

**E. Marriages mended by the great mystery!** “*32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*”